

# WØMTL - Mark Twain Land Area News — WØKEM

## MARCH, 2009



***PRAISE GOD FOR OUR BOUNTIFUL GIFTS IN THIS LAND OF PLENTY; OUR RENEWAL OF SEASONS, AND REMEMBER OUR COUNTRY IS THE BEST, AND WE NEED TO PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS, OUR LEADERS, AND OURSELVES!!***

### HARC OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW  
V-PRES: J.D. SINCLAIR, WØAJD  
SECRETARY: FRED MILLER, KBØWIL  
TREASURER: TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL  
TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA  
EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP**

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday  
MARCH 11 at 7:30 PM**

Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo.  
Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

**FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2009  
Hannibal, MO ARC 2009 Exam Dates**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 8, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, October 14, 2009 - 8:30 p.m.**

Exams will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2009 test fee will be \$15.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.

**NOTE: 2009 MEMBER DUES ARE DUE**



**THANKS!!**

**REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR CLUB!! BE SURE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES, AND PAY YOUR DUES SO WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH, AND KEEP NEEDED EQUIPMENT WELL MAINTAINED.**

**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
MINUTES**



**Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
Fred-KBØWIL...HARC Secretary...**

**Date:** February 7th, 2009 ( Saturday )

**Location:** Golden Corral Hannibal Mo.63401

**Supper called to order by:** Howie-KØDFW

**Treasurers Report:** Tony-WØPGL



Cash-\$1,177.22 CD-\$1,244.99 Total-\$2,422.21

**Repeater Report:** Fred-KBØWIL

The 146.625 and the 146.880 repeaters are working great, no problems.

**Motorola Maratrac 99 channel 100 watt radios**

We still have several Motorola Moblie Mara-Trac VHF radios, for sale. We have decided to sell the mobile radios, for \$50.00 each, to the local area hams. The rigs are rated at 100 watts, w/ 99 channels. Contact Howie-KØDFW or Jack-WD9CHG if you need any information regarding these radios. Jack-WD9CHG will reprogram and install the 2-meter frequencies and tones of

your choice, for any member of the HARC free of charge.

**HARC Member of the year 2008 Ceremony  
& Club Supper/Get together: February 7th, 2009**



Congratulations J.D. on winning this HARC 2008 award, we really appreciate all your efforts in helping our club.

We presented J.D.-WØAJD his award tonight at the HARC supper/get together. We had a great time tonight at our little get together; we had great food, and a lot of laughs. We gave away several door prizes, that the club purchased, and Howie-KØDFW donated several Yaesu hats to give away. Everyone got a prize! We had 31 members, their families, and friends that attended; thanks to everyone who came. If you didn't attend, you missed a very good time.

**K9P Special Event:**

USPSA -Single Stack Nationals PASA Park Barry, Ill, April, 2009. We will be having a K9P Special Event, again this year from April 29th-May2nd, 2009. We will be using the World Famous Redneck Retreat as our base of operation. Carol-WA9EFV has agreed to be our host, of course, he had to ask the real boss over there "Nancy", and she is an excellent hostess and cook. Carol is the self appointed Commander of this operation, if you don't believe me, just ask him, and he will tell you it's true. This will be our 5th year using the K9P '1x1" call sign. Fred-KBØWIL will get the K9P call sign in the 1X1 database, as well as in the May QST magazine, in the special event section.

**\*Donation:** Ameriton Amplifier



Carol-WA9EFV donated an Ameritron AL-811 Amplifier to our club. This will be a great addition to our radio arsenal, especially working special events, like K9P. Thank you very much Carol, for this outstanding donation.

**\*Donation:** ARRL 2007 Handbook

Cliff-KØCA donated a ARRL 2007 Handbook, which is still in its new plastic wrapper. It is a very good reference manual, for any ham. We will auction this manual off at our club meeting on March 11th to the highest bidder. So, plan on attending the next club meeting, help the club raise some money by bidding on this great manual.

**Field Day 2009:**

Don't forget that Field Day is June 27th-June 28th, 2009 in Huckleberry Park, Hannibal Mo. We did very well last year, placing second in the state of Missouri in the 3A Class. This was very good accomplishment for our club. Fred-KBØWIL is in charge of securing the pavilion in Huckleberry Park.

**HARC Barbeque August 2009:**

We will have our annual club barbeque on Saturday August 1st, 2009. It will be at Huckleberry Park Pavilion. Fred-KBØWIL will take care of the reservations for the pavilion.

Note: The Quincy hamfest is on Saturday August 8th, 2009, so this won't conflict with that date.

**HARC Dues 2009:**

The HARC dues for 2009 are now due, please pay Tony-WØPGL. You can pay at the next meeting or send them in to the club P.O. Box. The dues are \$20.00 annually per member. Please pay your dues no later than our club meeting on March 11th, 2009. If dues aren't paid by then, we will have to take you off of the club roster.

**Missouri House Bill 26**

There is a bill in the 95th General Assembly in Missouri, regarding HB26 Wireless Telephone Bill. We need to contact our local representatives, and let them know that there needs to be a provision for Amateur Radio Operators in this bill.

Rachel Bringer is our local representative, and her number is 573-751-9818, which is in Jefferson City, Mo.

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills091/biltxt/intro/HB00261.htm>

Total in attendance: 31

Minutes of the meeting recorded by:  
Fred KBØWIL...HARC Secretary...

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
MARCH 2009  
BY HOWARD BARNES KØDFW**

Well, I tell you what. I have seen a bunch of robins in my yard trying to pull up frozen worms, and the Red Wing Blackbirds are back around my pond, and I have seen thousands of snow geese up very high in the sky catching a southern wind and riding it back north! Guess what? Spring has sprung! Heck I have noticed that there has been a big increase of skunks getting hit on the highway while they are trying to carryout their mating duties. Heck even the Hoot owls are doing it. You probably get the drift from reading my letter that I work a lot with wildlife, meaning the four legged types, and not the Saturday night yahoos!

And another good indicator is the Collinsville hamfest is already over and everyone reports a very good turnout for it with all tables being sold out. Just like old times! Cheap gas makes a lot of people get out and go to such events.

Anyway if you missed the Radio club annual winter dinner at the Golden Corral Steakhouse you missed a good one. We had a room full of hams and wives and the food was great as well as the friendship. I think everyone had a good time as reported by all. We crowned J.D., W0AJD as the Amateur of the Year Award. He really did earn it with all the work that he did on bringing the LST 325 here and setting up the operating schedules for all to run the radio room on the ship.

Congratulations J. D. !! Fred handed out a lot of door prizes and I think everyone got at least one prize.

The Hannibal Radio Club still has a few of the Motorola mobile vhf radios left. These are 100 watt rigs with 100 percent duty cycle and some have external speakers and antenna. The radio has detachable face plates that let you put the main part of the radio in the trunk and the face on the dash. They will program well on 2 meters for the ham bands. For the small price of \$50 you can't beat these radios. Contact any club officer for the info on one and we will fix you up with one.

I guess there has been a lot of DX coming in on the bands and with some rare ones to work. I have been hearing the 2 meter repeater buzzing with talk about working the rare one. I personally haven't had time to pursue these stations but have thinking about getting involved. So get your rotor greased up and start swinging those yogis, and start working that DX while you can get them.

We will be working K9P again this year in the last part of April. We will be broadcasting from the world famous "REDNECK RETREAT" in Barry, IL. If you want to get some time in on the HF frequencies working pileups come on over and grab a mic !!!

We need to do some pre Field day talk about what we are going to be doing and the handling of it all!! So come on down to the next meeting on March 11, 2009 at the Beth Haven Nursing home basement at 7:30 pm and we will enlighten you with a bunch of ham radio talk.

Anyway, I hope everyone is getting along ok this winter and hang on because spring is just around the corner.

Best of 73s

Howard K0DFW

### **Around the World**



### **DX & Computer Horizons March 2009 by Cliff Ahrens K0CA**

As I type this, the ARRL DX CW contest is in full swing. For those of us who wonder where all the DX is at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, a quick listen this weekend answers the question. Good DX is still there. We just need to listen and tune the bands. Another great chance to work a lot of DX is during the ARRL DX Phone contest March 7-8. Now here's some highlights of DX operations planned in March.

PY0F Fernando de Noronha. Look for Bill W9VA and Jim K9PPY signing PS0F from Fernando de Noronha, an island off the Eastern coast of South America from March 3-19.

VK9M Mellish Reef. AA7JV and HA7RY are planning a "low-key, simple DXpedition" to Mellish Reef from March 22 to April 6. Their callsign will be VK9GMW. They will be active on 160 and 80m. More information on their trip is at: [www.vk9gmw.com](http://www.vk9gmw.com). Mellish Reef is about 900 km East of Australia. QSL via HA7RY direct with \$2 U.S. for up to three cards per envelope. They prefer you do not use IRCs. They plan to upload their log to LoTW.

D4 Cape Verde Islands. Seven German hams will be on the air from the Cape Verde Islands March 11-25. Callsigns and QSL info are: D44TXQ via DL3KBQ, D44TXP via DL1COP, D44TXF via DG3KAF, D44TXR via DL2RSI, D44TXI via DH2KI, D44TXS via HB9EHQ, and D44TXO via DJ2VO.

What seems to be an annual spring ritual is the USPS postage rate increases. U.S. postage rates are going up on May 11. The first class one ounce rate will go from 42 cents to 44 cents. Post cards

will be 28 cents. Rates to Canada will be 75 cents, and to Mexico will be 79 cents. Airmail to all other countries will go up to 98 cents. For more information, the announcement is at [www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm](http://www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm). It's not too early to start including the new postage rates in your QSLing.

The Rochester ARC is hosting another W0DXCC and Contest central convention on July 18, 2009 in Rochester, MN. They hope to feature a report from the K5D Desecheo DXpedition members. For more information, see <http://www.w0dxcc.com/>.

The ARRL's Century Club Awards Web log covers DXCC as well as other ARRL awards and certificate programs. It's a good source of information about updates to DXCC, the Logbook of the World (LoTW), Triple Play Award, and many others. The URL has recently changed. Check it out at: <http://www.arrl.org/blog/Century%20Club%20Awards>

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletin, the Daily DX and the Ohio/Penn DX bulletin for some of the information in this month's column. 73 and good DX, Cliff K0CA

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**HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET**  
**CALL LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPERATORS**  
**MARCH 2009**

2	KØDFW	HOWARD
9	N9UPG	BILL
16	KB9VIS	BRIAN
23	KBØWIL	FRED
30	WØAJD	JD

Thanks to all of you who do this!! We do need more volunteers; if you are able to take one week a month, we would really appreciate it.

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## **FOR SALE:**

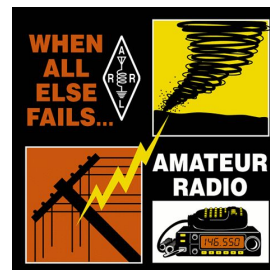
### **Motorola Maratrac 99 channel 100 watt radios**

Here is a photo of one of the Motorola Maratrac 99 channel, 100 watt mobile radios that were donated to the radio club from Jack, WD9CHG. They are convertible to 2-meter amateur use. There are still a few available. If you are interested, contact Jack, WD9CHG, or Howard, KØDFW or any club officer.



**A BIG THANKS TO JACK WD9CHG FOR FINDING THESE ITEMS FOR OUR CLUB TO SELL, AND MAKE SOME EXTRA FUNDS FOR OUR EXPENSES.**

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## **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

### **When They Say: Are You Ready? – How Do I Know if I AM?**

Being prepared for a disaster is something we hear frequently – but do I really know what that means and, am I prepared. Come learn about putting together a disaster kit, what to do, regarding developing your family disaster plan, and other points that can help you be prepared when we have a disaster. Types of disaster kits, and their contents, developing your family disaster plan, and disasters we anticipate locally, will be covered.

Adult/Community Ed Program - One-Night Seminar: Thursday, March 19, 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
The class will be at the Hannibal Career & Technical Center, 4550 McMasters Ave. It is the building behind the high school. The phone number is 573-221-4430 Ext. 3001 to reserve a place in the



class.

Instructor: Sherry Nelson, Human Development Specialist, University of MO Extension Office  
 Fee: \$20.00 Includes materials.

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**This is one of the first of HAM stories that I plan to add about our local operators. ENJOY!!**

### **My Life in Amateur Radio Cliff Ahrens – K0CA**



My adventure in ham radio began in the late 1950's, when I was in junior high school. My dad gave me a Vibroplex bug from a railroad telegrapher, and I used money from mowing lawns to get a Hallicrafters receiver. I think it was an S-41 Sky rider, Jr. (see photo). I strung a wire antenna out into the trees from my bedroom window. I listened a lot, learned Morse code, and studied an ARRL license manual. But I didn't have a mentor nor the initiative to get a license. Fortunately, my interest in ham radio survived lots of other activities, including marriage, college, work, and raising three children. I earned my Novice license in 1979 (KA0EZR), General and Advanced in 1980 (N0BQN), and my Extra ticket in 1981 (KI0W and K0CA).

My first Elmers were Russ Comer (W0NKO), Benny Benway (W0GQQ) and Carol Waddell (W0GQP), all of whom are Silent Keys. I spent many hours in their homes learning theory and Morse Code, and they helped me set up my first station and antennas. And Lew Gordon (K4VX) taught me contesting at his world-class multi-op station.

I started out using a borrowed Kenwood TS-820, and then bought a Kenwood TS-120S, one of the first all solid state transceivers. My first antenna was a random length wire which I installed in the attic, because I didn't want my wife and neighbors to complain about outside antennas. I soon found that RF was everywhere, in and out of the shack! I quickly abandoned the random length wire and put up a vertical and dipole antennas. Then after my wife and neighbors got used to seeing aluminum and wires, I put up a tower with three stacked beams on it along with wires for 80 and 160 meters.

My most exciting DX contact was my first one, VE7SR in September 1979. From then on, I was hooked on DXing. Equally exciting was my December 2004 QSO with VU4NRO in the Andaman Islands, for Top of the DXCC Honor Roll. My 25 year quest taught me a lot about DXing, and about patience and perseverance! Talking to people all over the world via radio waves has been a thrilling hobby for me. I've made lifelong friends, both locally and in many far-away places. My main interests in our hobby are CW DXing and contesting.

I've tried to repay our hobby and the efforts of all those who helped me by volunteering, and I encourage others to do the same. I'm currently the ARRL Midwest Division Vice Director, a sorter for the ARRL Zero District QSL Bureau, an ARRL DXCC Card Checker, an HF and VHF Awards Manager, a Volunteer Examiner for ARRL and the Hannibal ARC, and Trustee of the Hannibal ARC callsigns, and am Past President of the Hannibal club. I'm a Life Member of ARRL, and QCWA, and member of the Mississippi Valley DX/Contest Club, Missouri DX/Contest Club, Eastern Iowa DX Association, Kansas City DX Club, Hannibal ARC, and Western Illinois ARC.

Thanks to Bonnie for the great job on the newsletter, and for giving me a chance to tell about my life in amateur radio! 73, Cliff K0CA

### **Cliff's first - S-41 Sky rider, Jr. 1950's**



Thanks Cliff for this interesting article! WB0WAP

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### **HARC Member of the year 2008 Ceremony & Club Supper/Get together: February 7th, 2009**

As you can see by the pictures, a great time was had by all. Lots of laughs. Thanks to the club (especially to Fred) for all of the plans and prizes. Wish you could have been here!



Helen-N0JZV, Howie-K0DFW, Colten, Lori



Helen N0JZV, Tony-W0PGL – Getting a nose job??



Having a good time ☺ - Carol's family & friends



John-KC9MMO, Gene-W0ICY, JO-N0JA, Sandy, Fred-KB0WIL, Luan





J.D.-W0AJD, VP, Bonnie-WB0WAP, editor-picture taker



David-W9WE and his valentine.



**ABOVE:** Tony-W0PGL, **BELOW:** JOHN-N0JA, and Sandy



Marge, John-KC9MMO – **BELOW:** Bill-WB0NWU, Wilma







David-W9WE



Fred-WB0WIL, J.D. – W0AJD, Howie-K0DFW



**J.D. – W0AJD – MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2008!!**



Fred-WB0WIL, Howie-K0DFW



Kim, Cliff-K0CA, Arlyce-NB9Q, Mike-NA9Q, Sandy





Tony got a gift! Can't wait to see what!



Looks like Nancy is having too much fun!



Marge Potter – John's boss!!



WOW! This is almost as good as the skillet! JD is in for it now!



Luan, what is so funny? This is our next new HAM!



Hey Nancy, we are in control now!!!!!!!





**ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!**

**There is going to be a  
REDNECK HOEDOWN!**

**Sponsored by the Redneck Retreat**

**DINNER & DANCE with a LIVE COUNTRY  
AND WESTERN BAND!!**

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**Doors open at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM**

**Dancing 8:00 PM – 11:00 PM**

**Smith and Wesson Hall at Pasa Park, Barry, IL  
(West of Barry on Route 106 to 250<sup>th</sup> St)**

**DINNER & DANCE \$15.00 PER PERSON**

**Dance only \$5.00 per person at door**

**(Reservation Not Required for the dance only)**

**Send Reservation and Payment  
Redneck Retreat  
32559 250<sup>th</sup> Street  
Barry, IL 62312**

***Reservations required by April 14, 2009***

***For more information, call 217-335-2472***

**Include Name, Number Attending, and your  
Phone Number when you make the reservation.  
Payment must be enclosed with reservation!**

**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.**



**WØKEM & WØMTL**  
**P.O. Box 1522**  
**Hannibal, Mo 63401-1522**  
**U.S.A**



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